

House Bill 1183 was brought to my attention just as it was preparing to come out of Committee. It deals with establishing a regulatory agency from the State of ND for Onsite sewage treatment installation. (home septic systems). It then passed in the House.

I oppose this bill as it passed in the house and urge the Senate to reject it.

I am a licensed onsite sewage treatment operator. I've been in business for over 25 years in Dickinson and the surrounding area.

Since at least the 1970's, the State of ND has already had such an agency—with complete regulatory and enforcement powers, vested in each of the District Health units across the State. These units follow (depending upon the State Plumbing Boards recommendation) either the Uniform Plumbing Code or the International Plumbing Code guidelines. Individual rules for onsite sewage treatment are varied by district, because installation of septic systems is highly geographically sensitive for proper function. The soil at the bottom of Lake Agassiz is quite different from the soil of the 2-million old Badlands, and the Glacial Alluvial Till in the middle at 10,000 years old is again different. So, each District Health unit, familiar with their region, tailor's enforcement and regulation accordingly.

For a number of years, there has been a push by government and large Construction companies who span the state "To make this uniform' so they do not have to deal with vagaries in regulation. But this one-size fits all works well for regulators and large companies who want to do everything the same, and not so well for the actual installation process in the locality it is installed in, as highlighted above. Some District health Units have even gone over to this viewpoint, but not all.

Further, this bill, as I read it, does not remove the District health process, but layers in ANOTHER regulatory body—creating a duplicate process for more paperwork and confusion, and expense, both to the state and the contractors.

Again, I urge a no vote on this in the Senate, and a greater awareness of the issue going forward.

Thank you,

Jeff Ficek

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